

**Park Point Small Area Plan
Plan Committee Meeting
February 14, 2013 - 5:00 p.m.
Lafayette Community Recreation Club**

Participants

John Judd, City of Duluth Planning
John Kelley, City of Duluth Planning
Heather Rand, City of Duluth Planning Commission
Dawn Buck, Resident
Jan Karon, Resident
Deb Kellner, Resident
Sally Raushenfels, Resident
Phil Rolle, Resident
Kinnan Stauber, Resident

Guests

Brian Nelson
Burke Edgerton
Laurie Edgerton
Jeff Stuermer
Dave Poulin

1. Plan Committee

Karon suggested a Plan Committee member absentee policy be considered. The committee members in attendance discussed the matter and it was the consensus of the committee to hold a committee meeting when the majority of the committee, 6 or more of the 11 members, are present. If a committee member will not be attending they must inform the committee 48 hours in advance of a scheduled meeting. Committee members asked about more detail being added to the committee summary of comments. Following a brief discussion on the matter, Kelley stated that a more detailed set of comments would be prepared.

2. Review of previous meeting and power point presentation slides

Rolle asked about the state aide status of Minnesota Avenue and the possibility of an exception or variance to the road standards. A discussion followed about the existing right-of-way (ROW) and options that could be considered for a variance to the current road standards. The committee would like to meet with Andy McDonald to gain more insight into design options within the 60-foot ROW. Kelley and Judd both stated that a plan for an exception to the rules must be in place prior to applying for a variance. Kelley stated that the City has a Complete Streets Policy and that would be beneficial along with a plan to ask for a variance.

Committee members asked about traffic counts being completed on Park Point. The committee discussed annual and peak travel time collection of traffic counts, if there is current data that can be looked at, and that by having traffic count information showing the large variance between peak and off-peak traffic counts, this could be used as leverage towards providing traffic calming options on Park Point. Committee members discussed the impacts of heavy traffic on infrastructure and that the City considers installing temporary traffic calming treatments during peak times. Committee members would also like to see bike and pedestrian counts taken during peak times as well. It was the consensus of the committee members to formally request that the City collect

traffic counts during peak travel times on Park Point. Discussion continued on traffic calming including the consideration for striping/painting both sides of Minnesota Avenue for a bike lane. Staff was asked by the committee to confirm the type of signage that can or cannot be placed along Minnesota Avenue due to the state aid road status.

Kelley reviewed the hand out on the power point presentation presented by Andy McDonald at the last meeting. Committee members discussed various options that Andy had suggested in his slide presentation including traffic calming techniques, bike and pedestrian pathway along the unimproved St. Louis Avenue and the concept of half-closures on roads to keep traffic from turning. Committee members asked where the half-closures may be installed and that the option to do so would be a long term goal. Kelley and Judd stated the half-closures could be considered at 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th or 13th Streets. These are all options that can be considered.

Kelley stated that the portion of the Sidewalk Study completed by the Metropolitan Interstate Council for Park Point should be referenced in the Small Area Plan. Committee members discussed the sidewalks along Minnesota Avenue and asked why they were located only on one side. Kelley stated he would ask City Engineering for clarification on sidewalk location. Discussion continued on sidewalks and Karon asked who should be contacted at the City to clear brush, and trim trees and shrubs that are overgrown and hanging over sidewalks. Kelley stated that the Life Safety Division of the City should be contacted.

The committee members discussed the idea of diverting traffic off of Lake Avenue near the lift bridge and onto Minnesota Avenue. A discussion followed regarding the type of turn off of 8th street that may be proposed. Committee members asked if a drawing of the type of turn could be provided. Kelley and Judd stated that if a drawing could be completed by someone it would be a sketch of a possible turn scenario and not a detailed design. Kelley will ask if Andy McDonald could provide a sketch of the turn area. It was the consensus of the committee to consider some criteria to rank the location options for a possible turn off of Lake Avenue and to consider the feasibility of the turn.

Kelley handed out copies of the approved site plans and approval letters for the proposed Hotels. The committee discussed having City Administration including Dave Montgomery to arrange a meeting with the Hotel developers to discuss having them assist in improvements to Minnesota Avenue and possible cost sharing to construct a turn off of Lake Avenue onto Minnesota. Kelley and Judd will discuss the committee's proposal with Keith Hamre and report back to the committee. Stauber asked if temporary traffic calming such as concrete barriers could be placed during peak traffic times. Karon asked about the consideration of a traffic circle/roundabout for the Franklin Park and Tot Lot area at 13th Street. Kelley will ask Engineering about the dimensional requirements for a roundabout. Stauber stated that it would have to accommodate a semi-truck turning radius.

Committee members discussed street ends and their relationship to transportation. The committee would like to see 3 or 4 ideas for street ends and additional information on them prior to presenting this matter to the public. Kelley stated that the discussion on street ends needs to occur with City Engineering and the Parks and Recreation Department before it is brought to the committee for discussion. Buck stated that the legalities of use and riparian rights of street end's needs to be considered as well.

Committee members asked about the water and wastewater flow data for the hotels. Kelley stated he would ask City Engineering if a study or report was completed. Committee members also asked that Kelley look into why holding tanks were required for the Edgewater Hotel and not the two proposed hotels. The Edgewater is close to the Lake and so are the proposed hotels. Kelley will ask Engineering about the holding tanks.

A resident asked a question about snow removal on sidewalks and stated that it is City Policy to remove the snow if the plow pushed snow onto the sidewalk. Kelley stated he would inquire about the City Policy.

6. Plan Committee Meeting and Public Meeting Schedule

The committee discussed revising the meeting schedule as follows:

- Next Plan Committee meeting to be on Wednesday February 27, 2013.
- Plan Committee meeting to continue of 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month (March 6th and March 20th)
- Public meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 27th, 2013

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with thanks to all for their participation. Notice of future meetings will be provided.